

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 SY-05 SCS-06 A-01  
OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 IO-13 DRC-01 /131 W  
-----094191 240035Z /62

O 211000Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9861  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMCONSUL BUKAVU  
AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
USINT HAVANA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1556  
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USCINCRD MACDILL AFB FL/RCJ2 IMMEDIATE

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DEPT ALSO FOR A/SY/OPS/FO/AF

DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR EO TAGS AND SUBJECT AND MRN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC, CG

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK - SITREP 7 (MAY 21, 1978)

1. STATUS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

A. MOST RECENT INFORMATION WE HAVE IS THAT OF THE THIRTEEN AMERICANS

CITIZENS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IN KOLWEZI, ONE IS THOUGHT TO BE DEAD, ONE IS MISSING, ONE IS WOUNDED, FOUR HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO LUBUMBASHI, AND SIX HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO KINSHASA. ALSO GERMAN NATIONAL DEPENDENT WIFE OF AMCIT LONNIE GLENN ARRIVED KINSHASA.

B. LONNIE GLENN OF CIS IS THE AMCIT BELIEVED TO BE DEAD, WITH GECAMINES' MARIETTE HAAG MISSING. THE MISSIONARY ENRIGHT FAMILY IS IN LUBUMBASHI, WHILE THE MISSIONARY AMSTUTZ COUPLE, TOURIST BLACK AND THE TWO ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS HAVE BEEN EVACUATED TO KINSHASA. THE EVACUATIONS CITED ABOVE ALL TOOK PLACE MAY 20. THE AMSTUTZ COUPLE IS EXPECTED TO DEPART KINSHASA FOR BELGIUM MAY 21.

2. MILITARY SITUATION A. THE FRENCH DROPPED THEIR REMAINING PARATROOPS IN

KOLWEZI EARLY MAT 20. THE BELGIAN FORCES, HAVING RECEIVED THE GREEN LIGHT FROM BRUSSELS LATE EVENING MAY 19, BEGAN THEIR AIRLIFT TO KOLWEZI AIRPORT AT 0400Z MAY 20. BY MIDMORNING THE FRIENDLY FORCES HAD CONTROL OF ALL QUARTERS OF TOWN. AT 1500Z THE FRENCH REPORTED HAVING SURROUNDED AN ESTIMATED 200-300 ENEMY IN THE CITE METALKAT, WHICH IS LOCATED BETWEEN

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KOLWEZI AND THE CIS CAMP. THE FRENCH HAD CALLED IN A MIRAGE ATTACK TO CRUSH WHAT APPEARED TO BE THE LAST MAJOR POCKET OF REBEL RESISTANCE IN THE KOLWEZI AREA. ANOTHER ENEMY GROUP, REPORTEDLY SMALLER WAS SAID TO BE IN VICINITY, OF NZILO.

B. FRIENDLY FORCES' CASUALTIES THUS FAR ARE ONE KILLED, ONE WOUNDED, FIFTEEN MISSING AFTER THE JUMP, AND TEN INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE JUMP. THESE FIGURES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRELIMINARY IN LIGHT OF MIXED EYE WITNESS REPORTS ABOUT INTENSITY OF FIGHTING.

3. TROOP DEPLOYMENTN  
HOSTILE FORCES

A. ACCORDING TO A BELGIAN MILITARY SOURCE, THERE HAD BEEN APPROXIMATELY 2000 ENEMY TROOPS IN KOLWEZI AT THE HEIGHT OF THEIR OCCUPATION. ALL BUT ROUGHLY 500 LEFT KOLWEZI THE MORNING OF MAY 19 IN TWO GROUPS: ONE ON FOOT, THE OTHER IN SEVENTY TRUCKS. THOSE ON FOOT PROCEEDED DUE SOUTH TO THE ZAMBIAN BORDER. THOSE IN TRUCKS PROCEEDED WEST ON THE ROAD TO MUTSHATSHA, TURNED SOUTH TO THE PREVIOUSLY DESTROYED BRIDGE OVER THE MUKULESHI RIVER, AND CONTINUED ON FOOT TO THE ZAMBIAN BORDER. THE TRUCK CONVOY WAS NOT ATTACKED BY MIRAGE AIRCRAFT

BECAUSE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ENEMY HAD TAKEN HOSTAGES.

? OF THE ROUGHLY 500 REBELS WHO REMAINED IN KOLWEZI,  
200 REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN KILLED BY LATE MORNING, WHILE MOST OF THE  
OTHERS WERE SAID TO BE CORNERED BY FRENCH FORCES IN THE CITE METALKAT

C. AMCIT AMSTUTZ, WHOSE HOME WAS NEAR A MAJOR INTERSECTION AND  
POSSIBLE REBEL STRONG POINT IN KOLWEZI, SAW 75-100 AFRICAN TROOPS  
MARCHING DOWN HIS STREET SATURDAY, MAY 13, WEARING KHAKI UNIFORMS  
UNLIKE ANY USED BY FAZ. AT NO TIME DID AMSTUTZES OR TWO CATHOLIC  
PRIESTS EVACUATED OBSERVE ANY IDENTIFIABLE NON-AFRICAN SOLDIERS  
AMONG THE REBEL FORCES. HE ALSO HEARD CONSIDERABLE  
TRUCK TRAFFIC DURING THE NIGHT OF MAY 19-20, BUT DID NOT HEAR  
ANYTHING RESEMBLING A TRUCK CONVOY LEAVE KOLWEZI MORNING OF MAY 19.

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-----094204 240108Z /70/11

O 211000Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9862

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

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AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1557

USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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DEPT PASS PEACE CORPS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 5109 VICE 5107

D. AMCIT FATHERS WAGNER AND MESSERICH DESCRIBED REBELS AS WEARING TWO DIFFERENT UNIFORMS: ONE KHAKI, THE OTHER CAMOUFLAGE. ALL SOLDIERS WORE INSIGNIA OF TIGER BATTALION OF FLNC. BELGIAN ASSOCIATE OF FATHER MESSERICH RECOGNIZED ONE OF THE REBELS AS A FORMER LUNDA STUDENT OF HIS FROM KAPANGA. REBELS SAID THEY HAD WALKED FOR TEN DAYS FROM ANGOLA TO KOLWEZI VIA ZAMBIA. FOR FIRST FEW DAYS AFTER SEIZING KOLWEZI THEY TALKED OF MOVING ON TO TAKE LIKASI AND LUBUMBASHI. AFTER HEARING MID-WEEK BROADCASTS OF IMMINENT FRENCH PARADROP, THEY TALKED INSTEAD OF DESTROYING AS MUCH OF GECAMINES AS POSSIBLE, DISAPPEARING INTO THE BUSH, AND THEN RETURNING ONCE THE FRENCH PULL OUT.

A. ZAIRIAN FORCES. FATHER MESSERICH WAS TOLD BY SEVERAL ZAIRIAN ASSOCIATES THAT THE FAZ PARATROOPS DROPPED IN THE VICINITY OF KOLWEZI AIRPORT MAY 16 WERE WIPED OUT BY REBELS. BOTH MESSERICH AND WAGNER EMPHASIZED ABSENCE OF ANY FAZ RESISTANCE TO REBELS DURING INVASION MAY 13.

#### 4. INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

A. THERE WAS CALM IN KINSHASA ON THE AFTERNOON OF MAY 20, IT WAS A REGULAR NATIONAL HOLIDAY, THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF ZAIRE'S "SUPREME POLITICAL ORGANIZATION," THE MPR (MOUVEMENT POPULAIRE DE LA REVOLUTION), AND A MAJOR SOCCER MATCH TOOK PLACE THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUNICIPAL STADIUM.

B. THERE HAS BEEN ALMOST NO OTHER VISIBLE ANIMATION IN THE CITY. EMBOFFS UNDERSTAND THAT SEVERAL PARADES WERE  
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SCHEDULED IN HONOR OF THE MPR. HOWEVER, ASIDE FROM OBSERVING WHAT APPEARED TO BE SEVERAL GATHERINGS OF SMALL CROWDS WHICH

QUICKLY DISPERSED, WE HAVE SEEN NO ACTIVITY IN CENTRAL KINSHASA THAT MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS. PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS REPORTED TO HAVE CANCELED THE ARMY SWEEPS OF THE CITY OF KINSHASA MENTIONED IN SITREPS 2 AND 4.

C. WHILE FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION HAS INCREASED FRANCE'S CREDIBILITY AMONG AFRICA'S MODERATE STATES, THE EARLY EFFECT AT LEAST

MAY HAVE BEEN QUITE THE OPPOSITE AMONG VARIOUS MEMBERS OF ZAIRE'S EDUCATED CLASS. EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SEVERAL SOURCES THAT THEY PERCEIVE FRENCH ACTION AS NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER RESCUE OPERATION FOR THE MOBUTU REGIME. ALTHOUGH THE PERCEPTION OF FRANCE AS A SHIELD PROTECTING MOBUTU FROM HIS PEOPLE WAS SEEN AFTER THE '77 WAR, IT DID NOT HAVE THE DEGREE OF INTENSITY NOW EVIDENT. FOR EXAMPLE, A FRENCH "COOPERANT" TEACHING AT THE KINSHASA CAMPUS OF ZAIRE'S UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN SHUNNED POINTEDLY BY BOTH STUDENTS AND ZAIRIAN TEACHING COLLEAGUES SINCE MAY 17 WHEN FRENCH MILITARY INTERVENTION FIRST BECAME LIKELY. THE "COOPERANT" SAYS THE SOLE REASON WHY THE ZAIRIANS REFUSE TO SPEAK TO HIM IS HIS NATIONALITY. WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO DETERMINE HOW WIDESPREAD THIS ATTITUDE MIGHT BE.

D. IN LUBUMBASHI SEVERAL INFORMANTS REPORT THAT SKEPTICISM GREETED THE MAY 20 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE VOICE OF ZAIRE THAT THE FAZ HAD INTERCEPTED A MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MBUMBA TO HIS TROOPS IN KOLWEZI ORDERING THAT WHILE RETREATING THEY SHOULD DESTROY THE GECAMINES INSTALLATIONS, KIDNAP YOUNG ZAIRIANS AND KILL WHITE HOSTAGES. POPULAR DISTRUST OF ANYTHING COMING FROM THE GOVERNMENT IS SAID TO BE BASED ON FAZ BEHAVIOR IN LUBUMBASHI. ONE INCIDENT REPORTED A GROUP OF SOLDIERS FROM THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION STATIONED IN FRONT OF LUBUMBASHI'S CENTRAL MARKET MAY 19, WHO WERE ROUNDING UP PASSERS-BY AND CARTING THEM OFF TO AN UNKNOWN DESTINATION. ID-CARD CHECKS BY THE MILITARY WERE VISIBLE ALL OVER LUBUMBASHI AS WAS MILITARY VENALITY. HENCE, CERTAIN SOURCES IN LUBUMBASHI LOOK UPON THE CURRENT DANGER TO THE POPULATION IN KOLWEZI, ESPECIALLY FOR LUNDA TRIBESMEN, AS COMING NOT FROM

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THE INVADERS BUT FROM THE FAZ.

5. PRESS GUIDANCE: NO CHANGE.

6. DOMESTIC PRESS COVERAGE

THE WRITTEN PRESS CONTINUES WITH ITS EDITORIAL ATTACKS ON THE SOVIET UNION. EVEN THE SOLE NEWS REPORT ABOUT THE FOREIGN OPERATION IN KOLWEZI WAS FILLED WITH EDITORIALIZATION. THAT ITEM, ON THE NEWSPAPER ELIMA'S LATE-NEWS PAGE, REPORTED THAT THE FRENCH PARATROOPS HAD FOUND 44 EUROPEAN BODIES AND RESCUED SEVERAL HOSTAGES, INCLUDING SEVERAL FAZ OFFICERS WHO REPORTED THAT A CUBAN MOTORIZED FORCE HAD LEFT KOLWEZI JUST AS THE PARATROOPS WERE ARRIVING. THE ITEM SAYS THAT SINCE THE CUBANS WERE READILY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE KATANGANS, THEIR PRESENCE IS NOW CONFIRMED, "CONTRARY TO THE DISCOURTEOUS

DECLARATION OF BELGIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SIMONET."  
ELIMA ALSO IS THE SOURCE OF EVENTS: THE ZAIRIAN PEOPLE "WILL ONCE  
AGAIN HAVE PUT A STOP TO THE DIABOLICAL PROJECTS OF DESTABILIZATION  
AND BALKANIZATION ORGANIED BY MOSCOW, FINANCED BY ALGIERS AND  
TRIPOLI, AND EXECUTED BY HAVANA AND LUANDA."

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OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 IO-13 DRC-01 /131 W  
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O 211000Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9863  
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE  
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AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE  
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1558  
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER//ECJ4/7, ECJ2-T IMMEDIATE  
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR MRN 5109 VICE 5107

7. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

A. RABAT 2983 (NOTAL) PROVIDED FURTHER INFORMATION UPON POSSIBLE OAU PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR ZAIRE. AS OF MAY 19 AGREEMENT HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN REACHED AMONG MOROCCO, SENEGAL, GABON, AND IVORY COAST TO SEND MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ZAIRE AND A RESPONSE WAS NOW AWAITED FROM "WESTERN FRIENDS" TO A REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IN RABAT, A TOTAL OF SEVEN COUNTRIES MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE FORCE WITH TOGO, MAURITANIA, AND A THIRD UNIDENTIFIED COUNTRY JOINING THOSE IDENTIFIED SENEGAL AND GABON AS PART OF THE POSSIBLE PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

B. REUTER'S NEWS SERVICE REPORTED THAT CUBA DENIED ON MAY 19 THAT ITS TROOPS WERE IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN THE SHABAN FIGHTING. CUBAN SOURCES DESCRIBED THE FIGHTING AS AN INTERNAL AFFAIR AND DECLARED THAT THEIR FORCES HAD HAD NO PART IN TRAINING THOSE INVOLVED.

C. BRUSSELS RADIO REPORTED ON FOREIGN MINISTER UMBA DI LUTETE'S MAY 19 PRESS CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS. UMBA MADE NO SPECIFIC COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF HIS THEN JUST COMPLETED CONVERSATION WITH BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER BUT STATED THAT ZAIRE HAD ASKED BELGIUM, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE IN THE SHABAN FIGHTING IN ORDER TO HELP SAVE THE LIVES OF THEIR NATIONALS HELD HOSTAGE IN KOLWEZI. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAD BEEN REQUESTED TO PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AS WELL.

D. ACCORDING TO PARIS RADIO MAY 20, PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, JUST COMPLETING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO FRANCE, STATED  
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HIS APPROVAL OF FRENCH INTERVENTION IN THE SHABAN FIGHTING AND OPINED THAT THE "KATANGAN FIRE" WOULD SOON BE PUT OUT.

8. PETROLEUM SITUATION: NO CHANGE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Draft Date:** 21 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014